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Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation

## RAJYA SABHA

The following Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st March, 1976:—

BILL NO. XXIII OF 1976

*A Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Twenty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1976.

Short title and commencement.

(2) Sections 2 and 4 shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of October, 1975 and the remaining provisions shall come into force at once.

8 of 1923.

2. In section 2 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in sub-section (1), in sub-clause (ii) of clause (n), for the words "five hundred rupees", the words "one thousand rupees" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 2.

3. In section 36 of the principal Act, for the words "two successive sessions, and if before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the session immediately following", the words "two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 36

Substi-  
tution of  
new  
Schedule  
for Sche-  
dule IV.

4. For Schedule IV to the principal Act, the following Schedule shall be substituted, namely:—

#### “SCHEDULE IV

(See section 4)

#### COMPENSATION PAYABLE IN CERTAIN CASES

Monthly wages of the workman injured		Amount of compensation for—		Half-monthly payment as compensation for temporary disablement
		Death	Permanent total disable- ment	
1		2	3	4
More than	But not more than			
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. P.
0	60	7,200	10,080	Half his monthly wages
60	90	9,720	14,608	36.00
90	120	11,520	16,128	42.00
120	150	13,500	18,900	48.75
150	200	16,800	23,520	60.00
200	300	18,000	25,200	82.50
300	400	19,200	26,880	100.00
400	500	21,000	29,400	118.75
500	600	21,600	30,240	135.00
600	700	23,100	32,340	148.75
700	800	24,000	33,600	160.00
800	900	27,000	37,800	168.75
900	1000	30,000	42,000	175.00.”

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, provides for payment of compensation to workmen and their families in case of industrial accidents and of certain occupational diseases, resulting in death or disablement. The Act was last amended in 1962.

2. At present, the Act covers workmen whose wages do not exceed Rs. 500 per month. The limit is considered very low in the context of current wage levels in private as well as public sector. There has, therefore, been persistent requests for enhancement of the wage limit for coverage under the Act. In the circumstances, it is now proposed to raise the wage limit for coverage of workmen under the Act from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 per month with effect from the 1st October, 1975. This is likely to secure the benefits conferred by the Act to a large section of the workers.

3. Simultaneously with the revision of wage limit for coverage, the existing rates of compensation as provided under Schedule IV to the Act need an upward revision. It is also necessary to provide suitable scales of compensation for the higher wage levels beyond Rs. 500. It has accordingly been proposed to make suitable modification in the existing wage groups and the rates of compensation in Schedule IV to the Act. Opportunity is being taken to amend the rule laying formula to bring it in conformity with the recommendations of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

4. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objects.

NEW DELHI;  
The 19th March, 1976.

K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY.

## FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 covers a large number of persons employed by Central Government in Railways, Posts and Telegraphs, Central Public Works Department, etc.

2. Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to increase the wage limit for coverage from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000 per month. This would bring within the coverage of the Act a large number of employees in respect of whom the employers (including the Central Government) have at present no statutory liability for payment of compensation.

3. Clause 4 seeks to substitute the existing Schedule IV by a new Schedule with a view to—

(i) revising the existing rates of compensation for death, permanent total disablement and temporary disablement; and

(ii) providing suitable rates of compensation for workmen drawing monthly wages of more than Rs. 500 per month.

4. The above proposals in so far as they relate to the Central Government will involve increased expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India with regard to payment of compensation. However, as compensation becomes payable only in the event of an injury caused to a workman by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, resulting in disablement or death, it is not possible to estimate the amount of increased expenditure.

5. The Bill does not involve any other expenditure, whether of recurring or non-recurring nature.

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B. N. BANERJEE,  
Secretary-General.